

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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WHITMAN

April 23, 2021

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Usk Bridge project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is Pend Oreille County and the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and the project is located at 625 West 4th Street, Newport, WA 99156.

The funding is designated for the Rehabilitation and Repair of the Usk Bridge. The bridge consists of (24) spans of 70-ft concrete girders on concrete piling and (20) spans of 30-ft timber glulam girders on timber piling in need of repair, replacement and cleaning. There are several elements of the bridge in need of repair that, if not addressed, could result in exceedingly costly repair measures or further load restrictions.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to be beneficial as the bridge is a critical structure in Pend Oreille County. Residents, members of the Kalispel Tribe, school children, and many of County's largest employers rely on the bridge for transport of people and goods across the Pend Oreille River with 30 percent of measured traffic consisting of trucks. Without the bridge, drivers would be significantly impacted as a detour would be at least 35-miles long.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress